



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT ACCORDING TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

APPLICANT:

Heinfried Hoffmann,

DOCKET NO:

P04.0153

et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/840,114

ART UNIT:

2857

FILED:

May 6, 2004

EXAMINER:

CONF. NO.:

7271

TITLE:

METHOD AND DEVICE TO TEST THE OPERATION SAFETY OF

A PROCESS CONTROL DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, Applicant respectfully requests that a citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO 1449 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States Patent.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) and before the latter occurrence of:

- three months from the filing date of a national application; (1)
- three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set (2) forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

REMARKS

The attached PTO 1449 form lists related art references for the above identified application.

EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

The relevance of references AA, AB, AL and AM was discussed in the

-1-

Specification. An English-language Derwent abstract for reference AM has been provided, and a full translation will be produced at the request of the Examiner.

Reference AN is an English-language translation of a Japanese patent document.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The above citation of related art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent related art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of related art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,

Dergney (Reg. No. 45,877)

Mark Bergner

SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT

6600 Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473

(312) 258-5779

Attorney for Applicant(s)

CUSTOMER NUMBER 26574

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on November 3, 2004.

Form PTO-1449						Docket No.		Serial No.		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (use several sheets if necessary)						P04,015	3	10/840,114		
						Applicant Heinfried Hoffmann, et al.				
						Filing Date Group Art U				
(use several sheets it hooessury)					May 6, 2004		04	2857		
	-	U.	S. PATENT	DOCUMEN	ITS			•		
Examiner's Initials		Document Number	Date	Name		Class	Subclas	s Filing Date If appropriate		
	AA	6,176,247 B1	1/23/2001	Winchcomb et al. Grumstrup et al.						
	AB	6,186,167 B1	2/12/2001							
	AC						-			
	AD									
	AE									
	AF									
	AG									
	AH									
	AI									
	AJ						<u></u>			
	AK						<u> </u>			
		FOR	EIGN PATE	NT DOCUM	MENTS	3				
		D ANGELON	Data	Count	hers z	Class	Subclas	Translation		
		Document Number	Date	Count	пу			Yes	No	
	AL	WO 99/21066	4/29/1999	PCT						
	AM	44 19 548 A1	12/7/1995	Germany				Abst.		
	AN	08193502 A	7/30/1996	Japan				X		
	AO						<u> </u>			
	AP									
	AQ									
	AR									
	AS						<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
	OT	HER PRIOR ART (I	Including Au	thor, Title,	Date, P	ertinent	Pages, I	Etc.)		
	AT									
	AU									
	AV									
 	AW	T								

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.